

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSPORTATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

May 22, 2001

Regional Public Transportation Authority (RPTA) Office
302 North First Avenue, Suite 700, RPTA Conference Room
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Wickenburg: Fred Carpenter, Chair
Phoenix: Jack Tevlin, Vice-Chair
ADOT: Dan Lance
*Avondale: Michael Powell
*Buckeye: Joe Blanton
Chandler: Bryan Patterson
*Fountain Hills: Randy Harrell
Gila Bend: Shane Dille
Gilbert: Tami Ryall
Glendale: Jim Book
Goodyear: Andrew Cooper for Cato
Esquivel

*Guadalupe, Mark Johnson
*Litchfield Park: Mike Cartsonis
Maricopa County: Tom Buick
Mesa: Jeff Martin for Ron Krosting
Paradise Valley: Robert M. Cicarelli
*Peoria: David Moody
RPTA: Bryan Jungwirth for Ken Driggs
Scottsdale: Aaron Iverson for John C.
Little
Surprise: Miryam Gutier
Tempe: Glenn Kephart

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ATTENDING

*Regional Bicycle Task Force: Maureen
Mageau-Decindis, RPTA for Eric Iwersen,
Tempe
*Street Committee: Grant Anderson,
Glendale
ITS Committee: Jim Book

Pedestrian Working Group: Reed Kempton,
Maricopa County Dept of Transportation
Telecommunications Advisory Group:
Jim Hull

* Members neither present nor represented by proxy.

OTHERS PRESENT

Eric Anderson, MAG
Paul Ward, MAG
Kwi-Sung Kang, ADOT
Chuck Easton, ADOT
Pat Cupell, ADOT
Charlene Fitzgerald, ADOT
Dawn Coomer, MAG
Ellis Perl, RTPA
Deborah Betzold, MCDOT
Barbara Hauson, MCDOT
Peggy Carpenter, City of Scottsdale
Burton Charrda, City of Peoria
Ken Hall, MAG

Bob Antila, RTPA
Stephen Tate, MAG
Ali Makarachi, City of Phoenix
Andrew Smith, ADOT
Dale Thompson, MAG
Mark Reddie, City of Phoenix
Susan Tierney, RPTA
Chris Plumb, MCDOT
Dennis Mittelstedt, MAG
Mark La Scola, On the Mark, Inc.
Mike Sabatini, MCDOT
Chuck Williams, MCDOT

1. Call to Order

Fred Carpenter, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes of April 24, 2001 Minutes

Addressing the first order of business, Chairman Carpenter asked if there were any changes or amendments to the meeting minutes. Mr. Bryan Jungwirth directed the Committee's attention to Page 5 of the April minutes, and stated that the minutes should be changed to clarify that a motion was made to transfer \$1.2 million in funding from the acceleration of buses in FY 2003 over to light rail, and then to accept the staff recommendation of the carry over projects from FY 2001 to FY 2002. After this requested change was addressed, Bryan Jungwirth moved to approve the minutes, with Jim Book seconding. The minutes were subsequently approved by unanimous voice vote.

3. Call to the Audience

Chairman Carpenter noted that he had not received any request to speak cards from the audience, and moved to the next item on the Agenda.

4. Transportation Managers Report

Chairman Carpenter introduced MAG Transportation Manager, Mr. Eric Anderson, who gave the Transportation Manager's report. Mr. Anderson provided the Committee with an overview of the MAG Air Quality conformity analysis public hearing process, and announced that MAG will initiate an upcoming Commuter Rail Study that will begin during FY 2002. He then stated that MAG is in the process of preparing a Scope of Work for the southwest, southeast and northwest transportation sub-area studies. He informed the Committee that MAG would initiate three separate scope review sessions with local representatives for the affected jurisdictions within each region prior to issuing separate RFPs.

Mr. Anderson informed the Committee that MAG would be sponsoring the upcoming annual 2001 Western States Intermodal Planning Group (IPG), which will be conducted from September 30th through October 2nd of 2001. He stated that for the first time, the IPG Conference has extended invitations to organizations and individuals throughout the entire western United States, which will include an extensive list of transportation professionals and policy makers at the federal, state, regional and local levels. Mr. Anderson then informed the Committee that Mr. Paul Ward, MAG Transportation Programming Manager, had recently met with a special TRC working group on May 18, 2001, to discuss the MAG federal funding process. Mr. Anderson asked Mr. Ward to provide the Committee with an update of the items that were discussed at the meeting.

Mr. Paul Ward then addressed the Committee, and stated that the TRC Ad Hoc Working Group for the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) development process consisted of 18 members, and that approximately 8 to 10 people were in attendance at the May 18th meeting. Mr. Ward stated that they are in the process of identifying a preliminary schedule of when to submit applications for MAG federal funds. At the meeting, members of the working group attempted to formulate a recommended schedule for the submittal of applications, and a suggested application process that will include the two-page, data entry application form that could be used as a standard format for future applications. Mr. Ward stated that all suggestions and recommendations that are provided by the working group would be forwarded to an upcoming TRC meeting for consideration and approval. Discussion followed, and Mr. Anderson concluded his report.

5. Report on the MAG Freeway Program

Addressing the next order of business, Chairman Carpenter introduced Mr. Eric Anderson of MAG who briefed the Committee on the MAG Freeway Program. Mr. Anderson stated that “on the revenue side” HURF funds were right on target. He informed the Committee that April collections were strong and that a significant increase in trucking related revenues helped. Mr. Anderson stated that overall RARF revenues were up 6.9 percent in March, but that collections within retail sales fell by approximately 1.1 percent.

Mr. Anderson informed the Committee that the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) was in the process of conducting a noise study on the Pima Freeway. He stated that ADOT was collecting noise measurements and readings on the Freeway, and that they were in the process of developing mitigation strategies in an effort to reduce the overall levels of noise associated with traffic on the Pima Freeway. Mr. Anderson also informed the Committee that he was working with ADOT on right-of-way acquisitions and expansions, and that last year ADOT purchased approximately \$100,000,000 in right-of-way within Maricopa County. He also stated that there have recently been several successful meetings with ADOT right-of-way staff and members of the Attorney General’s office regarding right-of-way issues. There were no questions from the Committee, and this concluded Mr. Anderson’s report.

Following Mr. Anderson’s report, Mr. Jim Book addressed Chairman Carpenter and requested that Item #9, the Phoenix Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Program presentation, be heard prior to Item #7, the Interim Close Out of the FY 2001 MAG Federal Funded Program. Discussion followed, and Chairman Carpenter stated that the Committee would hear Item #9 prior to Item #7 as requested by Mr. Book. However, Chairman Carpenter stated that Item #6 would be heard first, and addressed the next order of business.

6. Regional Transportation Plan Update

Chairman Carpenter once again introduced Mr. Eric Anderson of MAG, who provided the Committee with an update on the development of the new Regional Transportation Plan. Mr. Anderson addressed the Committee and stated that as part of the process, MAG was conducting a series of 16 focus groups throughout the Valley and that 9 of the focus group meetings have already been conducted. Mr. Anderson said that the focus groups have resulted in the gathering of valuable input into the regional planning process, and he mentioned that MAG's Gilbert Focus Group resulted in the attendance of 36 people at the meeting. He also informed the Committee that there would be a special TRC Focus Group that will be conducted on June 5, 2001, in the Saguaro Conference Room of the MAG offices to be held in between 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Mr. Anderson stated that the consultant working on the Regional Transportation Plan would have a *State of the Region* report completed by the end of June. This report would be followed by growth options for the region, which would be completed sometime during the months of July and August. Mr. Anderson then provided the Committee with an overview of the project's Issue Papers that resulted from the expert Forum Panels. Mr. Anderson informed the Committee that there were a total of five issue papers, which addressed the following topics: Demographics and Social Change; the New Economy; Environmental and Resource Issues; Land Use and Urban Development; and Transportation and Technology. He stated that each issue paper was in between 30 to 50 pages long and consisted of a series of factual bullet points in a narrative format, and that the consultant was incorporating MAG's input into each paper prior to releasing them during the month of June. Mr. Anderson also noted that the consultant was supposed to deliver recorded video sessions for two of the expert Forums, but have not done so to date.

Discussion followed, and Mr. Jack Tevlin stated that he did not understand how the sub-regional studies for the Southwest, Southeast and Northwest Valley fit into the regional transportation planning process. Mr. Tevlin voiced his concerns over the fact that if MAG is going to embark upon a regional planning process, that the sub-regional studies should have been placed before the TRC upon the start of the process. Mr. Tevlin also questioned the added funds being requested for the Bottleneck Study.

Mr. Anderson stated that the purpose of each individual study is not to "recreate" individual subcomponents of the regional transportation plan. He informed the Committee that the sub-area studies are to be utilized in an effort to identify needs and to incorporate information into the RTP. Questions arose from the Committee as to why there was not a separate study being considered for the Northeast Valley. Ms. Peggy Carpenter addressed the Committee from the audience, and stated that Scottsdale did not see a need for a sub-area study for the Northeast. Mr. Anderson went on to explain that the added money for the Bottleneck Study was at the request of Phoenix to identify capacity improvements in the central core. Mr. Anderson said that the study will not just

identify bottlenecks, but will also look at solutions. Discussion followed, and Mr. Jeff Martin mentioned the importance of incorporating an additional \$200,000 in carryover funds to be utilized toward the MAG Bottleneck Study in an effort to make sure that the study is comprehensive enough to identify all needs. Mr. Martin suggested that the MAG Bottleneck Study would assist the TRC and the region in the overall identification of ideas, concepts, and to assess and identify necessary dollar amounts of potential projects that can be incorporated into the MAG TIP over time. Mr. Bryan Jungwirth stated he was concerned with the sub-area studies, and to what degree the individual studies would address transit needs within each area. Mr. Anderson summarized the discussion by stating that the Regional Transportation Plan would provide the framework on how the studies would be conducted, and that all projects in the region would be evaluated on an ongoing basis.

9. Phoenix Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Program Presentation

Addressing the next order of business, Chairman Carpenter introduced Mr. Mark Reddie of the City of Phoenix, who provided the Committee with an overview of the Phoenix BRT Program. Mr. Reddie addressed service provisions and capital needs, and how they related to the overall system. He provided an overview of the State Route 51, Black Canyon, Papago, Maricopa, and Central Avenue system corridors and provided an overview of a proposed design study for a future corridor to be located between downtown Phoenix and South Central Avenue.

Mr. Reddie informed the Committee that the City of Phoenix will be constructing 4 new Park-and Ride developments, and upgrading three existing lots to include expansion of parking, shaded parking, and enhanced passenger amenities that include such features as additional restrooms, lighting, seating areas, “real time” digital passenger display information, public telephones and lockers.

Mr. Reddie provided an overview of BRT stations, passenger amenities, and addressed the City’s future plans to closely integrate BRT and light rail stations. He addressed proposed fleet specifications and provided an overview of several types of buses that the City of Phoenix is currently considering for daily use in the future. He also discussed the city’s proposed vehicle management system, proposed fare collection processes and the adoption of a marketing theme and logo for the service. Mr. Reddie summarized his presentation by addressing the future BRT schedule for operation. The schedule addressed items directly pertaining to planning and programming, a draft operation plan, facility design, vehicle and equipment procurement, facility construction, and the initiation of extended service within all corridors, which is scheduled to take place during July of 2003.

This concluded Mr. Reddie’s report, and he entertained a series of brief questions from the Committee and from people seated in the audience.

8. Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) Presentation

Following the Phoenix BRT presentation, Mr. Tom Buick addressed Chairman Carpenter and asked to defer Maricopa County's RTA presentation to another date. Mr. Buick stated that the Phoenix BRT presentation was longer than what he anticipated, and informed members of the Committee that the RTA presentation would warrant much more time than what was reasonably left over for the remainder of the meeting.

Mr. Buick requested to reschedule the RTA presentation and provided the Committee with an information packet on the proposed Regional Transportation Authority. Mr. Buick suggested a separate meeting on the RTA presentation to be heard by members of the TRC on June 12th at the Durango Conference Center of the Maricopa County complex. Mr. Paul Ward stated that the suggested date conflicted with the TIP working group, which was also scheduled to conduct a meeting on the same date. Discussion followed, and it was concluded by Chairman Carpenter that Mr. Eric Anderson would work with Mr. Buick and members of Maricopa County to allocate sufficient time for the County to present these materials at an upcoming TRC Meeting.

7. Interim Close Out of the FY 2001 MAG Federal Funded Program

Addressing the next order of business, Chairman Carpenter called on Mr. Paul Ward of MAG, who briefed the Committee on the interim close out of the FY 2001 MAG federal funded program. Mr. Ward informed the Committee that \$11.2 million in carryover projects from FY 2001 to FY 2002 were being forwarded to the May 23rd meeting of the Regional Council for review and approval. Mr. Ward also concluded that since the April TRC meeting, he had the opportunity to identify an additional \$800,000 in available funds, thereby bringing the total amount of available left over federal funding to approximately \$2.2 million. Mr. Ward addressed Table One of the handout, which displayed projects that have been submitted, but have not been recommended. He discussed three levels of funding priorities and opened up discussion to members of the Committee.

Mr. Dan Lance asked Mr. Ward how the projects were prioritized, and how he was able to determine the listing. Mr. Ward indicated that current Regional Council approved guidelines for project prioritization were utilized to determine the overall prioritization of the projects as identified on Table One.

Discussion opened on various project needs and the suggested funding of projects. Mr. Bryan Jungwirth suggested that instead of accelerating money for the purchase of buses in FY 2003, that the allocated funding should be made available as "new money." Mr. Jungwirth addressed his support for the telework program as identified on Table One. Mr. Jeff Martin then addressed the two interchange projects for US 60, and suggested the need to simultaneously construct the overpasses while widening the Superstition Freeway for additional lanes. He noted the possibility of initiating a viable financial package

through discussions with ADOT to assist with both components of the overall project. Mr. Glen Kephart asked whether the overpass and widening projects were far enough along in the process to initiate construction. Mr. Dan Lance stated that the projects were not far enough along, and that design money was needed. Mr. Lance emphasized the importance of initiating the design phase as soon as possible so that the overpass improvements can be accomplished at the same time as the US 60 lane-widening project.

Mr. Chris Plumb suggested that the Committee seriously consider projects that will have an immediate impact on Air Quality in the region. He stated that the Maricopa County REACT Program should be considered for arterial streets, and that the other projects as listed and identified throughout the discussion were too large and would take up the entire \$2.2 million in available funds.

After further, open discussion by the Committee on the identified projects on Table One, Mr. Jeff Martin entertained a motion for TRC approval on the purchase of two City of Phoenix Bus Rapid Transit vehicles for \$716,000; US 60 design money in the amount of \$600,000; the purchase of 2 of 4 RPTA buses for \$600,000; \$100,000 to be added to the MAG Bottleneck Study; and the remaining amount of \$200,000 for the Regional high capacity transit study. Mr. Bryan Patterson seconded this motion. However, prior to a formal vote by the Committee, Mr. Chris Plumb voiced his concern over the fact that the projects were not going to have an immediate impact on regional air quality. Mr. Plumb again reiterated the importance for the Committee to seriously consider the REACT Program for immediate funding. Ms. Tami Ryall addressed the Committee and said that she wanted to support the motion as presented, due to the fact that not enough information is known on the REACT Program to support it at this time.

Mr. Bryan Jungwirth then asked members of the Committee if the motion could be amended to include the telework project. Mr. Jungwirth's request was followed by Mr. Jack Tevlin, who asked if the \$600,000 as requested in the motion for the RTPA buses should go toward light rail. The Committee then addressed several discussion points regarding additional funding for the development of light rail and the purchase of BRT buses for the City of Phoenix. After discussion, Mr. Jack Tevlin entertained a motion to amend the original motion to include \$716,000 for the purchase of two Bus Rapid Transit vehicles for the City of Phoenix; \$600,000 for the advance design of arterial crossings at US 60; \$500,000 for regional light rail development; \$120,000 for the RPTA Telework Program; \$100,000 in funding to go toward the MAG Bottleneck Study; and \$200,000 in funding to go toward the high capacity transit study. Mr. Jim Book seconded the motion. However, prior to a formal vote by the Committee, Mr. Kephart addressed the issue of left over funding, and requested that if funds were left over that the monies should go toward the City of Tempe's Traffic Signal Emergency Vehicle Preemption project. Mr. Book raised the question of whether left over money could even be applied. The Committee reached a general consensus that such a request by the City of Tempe could be accepted as part of the amended motion. At this point, Mr. Glen Kephart entertained a motion to amend the previously amended motion to allow any leftover funds to be applied toward the City of Tempe's project. Mr. Jim Book seconded the motion. Prior to

a formal vote, Mr. Chris Plumb requested a further amendment to the amendment that would allow for leftover funds to be applied to Maricopa County's REACT Program. It was not supported.

Chairman Carpenter then called for a final clarification and vote. The previously amended motion that included \$716,000 for the purchase of two Bus Rapid Transit vehicles for the City of Phoenix; \$600,000 for the advance design of arterial crossings at US 60; \$500,000 for regional light rail development; \$120,000 for the RPTA Telework Program; \$100,000 in funding to go toward the MAG Bottleneck Study; and \$200,000 in funding to go toward the high capacity transit study was unanimously approved by the Committee, except for one dissenting vote from Mr. Chris Plumb.

10. Next Meeting Date

Chairman Carpenter told members in attendance that the next meeting of the Committee would be conducted on June 26, 2001. Chairman Carpenter reminded members of the Committee that there would be a special TRC Focus Group Meeting to be held on June 5, 2001, in the Saguaro Conference Room of the MAG Offices at 1:30 p.m. There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.